

# Judicial Council Committees

The Judicial Council performs most of its work through advisory committees and task forces. The chair of the council may appoint advisory committees and task forces to advise the council on the condition of business in the courts, on improving the administration of justice, and on performing any other of its duties. The Judicial Council's nomination process encourages diversity in appointments and broadens the participation of judges, court officials, and attorneys from throughout the state.

## INTERNAL COMMITTEES

Three internal committees are made up of Judicial Council members. The reports and recommendations of the advisory committees generally are received by an internal committee and then forwarded to the Judicial Council with recommendations for action.

### Executive and Planning Committee

Directs and oversees the conduct of business and operating procedures of the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts; oversees the implementation of the council's long-range strategic plan; develops and conducts the council's annual planning workshop; ensures that the judicial branch budget is tied to the long-range plan; and serves as the nominating committee for vacancies on the council and its advisory committees.

### Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee

Represents the Judicial Council in discussions with other agencies and entities, such as the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the State Bar; reviews and makes recommendations on Judicial Council-sponsored legislation; reviews pending bills, determines council's policy positions, and advocates those policy positions.

### Rules and Projects Committee

Directs and oversees the conduct of business and operating procedures of the advisory committees and task forces. Directs and oversees the development and approval of the California Rules of Court, the Standards of Judicial Administration, and Judicial Council forms.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

To carry out its mission and provide the leadership for advancing the cause of a consistent, impartial, independent, and accessible administration of justice, the Judicial Council must be apprised of issues and concerns confronting the judiciary and of appropriate solutions and responses. This need is met by establishing advisory committees to regularly monitor areas of law and make recommendations to the Judicial Council. The advisory committee membership consists of non-council members and liaisons from the council.

### **Access and Fairness Advisory Committee**

Monitors issues related to access to the judicial system and fairness in the state courts and provides policy direction in these areas. The committee is organized into five subcommittees that address racial and ethnic fairness, sexual orientation fairness, gender fairness, and access for persons with disabilities, as well as education and implementation.

### **Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee**

Improves appellate court judges' access to and participation in the Judicial Council decision-making process; reviews rules, forms, studies, and recommendations relating to appellate court administration that are proposed to the Judicial Council; identifies issues of concern to the courts, including legislative issues, that might be addressed by the Judicial Council or one of its advisory committees or task forces; and increases communication between the council and the appellate courts.

### **Appellate Advisory Committee**

Advises the council on matters relating to procedure, forms, standards, practices, and operations of the appellate courts and identifies issues of concern to the appellate courts, including legislative issues, that might be taken up by the Judicial Council.

### **Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) Governing Committee**

Determines the operating policies, funding, staffing, and programs of the Center for Judicial Education and Research and makes any necessary recommendations for action to the Judicial Council or the California Judges Association.

### **Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee**

Identifies issues and concerns confronting the judiciary regarding civil procedure, practice, and case management, including small claims, and suggests appropriate solutions and responses.

### **Court Executives Advisory Committee**

Improves court administrators' access to and participation in the Judicial Council decision-making process; reviews rules, forms, standards, studies, and recommendations relating to court administration that are proposed to the Judicial Council by advisory committees or task forces; identifies issues of concern to the courts, including legislative issues, that might be taken up by the Judicial Council or one of its advisory committees or task forces; and increases communication between the council and the trial courts.

### **Court Interpreters Advisory Panel**

Works to improve the number and quality of interpreters in the courts and proposes comprehensive legislation and training for interpreters.

### **Court Technology Advisory Committee**

Promotes, coordinates, and facilitates the application of technology to the work of the courts. The committee is charged with establishing standards to ensure technological compatibility; facilitating court technology projects funded in whole or in part by the state; proposing rules, standards, or legislation to ensure privacy, access, and security; and assisting courts in acquiring and developing useful technology systems.

### **Criminal Law Advisory Committee**

Identifies issues and concerns confronting the judiciary regarding criminal procedure, practice, and case management and suggests solutions and responses.

### **Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee**

Identifies issues and concerns confronting the judiciary regarding procedure, practice, and case management for cases involving marriage, family, or children, and suggests solutions and responses.

### **Traffic Advisory Committee**

Works to improve the administration of justice in the area of traffic and bail-forfeitable offense adjudication; identifies policy issues and recommends rules and/or model procedures that will result in more statewide consistency in handling traffic and bail-forfeitable offenses; and provides analysis in support of policy decisions made by the Judicial Council and the Legislature regarding traffic and bail-forfeitable offense matters.

### **Trial Court Budget Commission**

Develops annual trial court budget requests to the Governor and the Legislature and allocates and reallocates state funds appropriated for the operation of the trial courts.

### **Trial Court Coordination Advisory Committee**

Reviews and makes policy recommendations regarding all coordination-related issues, including reviewing and making recommendations to the Judicial Council on the progress of trial court coordination implementation and the coordination plans for all trial courts.

### **Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee**

Improves trial court judges' access to and participation in the Judicial Council decision-making process; reviews rules, forms, studies, and recommendations relating to court administration that are proposed to the Judicial Council; identifies issues of concern to the courts, including legislative issues, that might be addressed by the council or one of its advisory committees or task forces; and increases communication between the council and the trial courts.

### **Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee**

Makes recommendations to the Judicial Council for improving the processing of cases in drug courts, domestic violence courts, youth courts, and other community-based treatment courts.

## **TASK FORCES**

While the advisory committees monitor areas of continuing significance to the justice system, task forces handle particular projects or proposals. The current task forces are:

- Appellate Indigent Defense Oversight Advisory Committee
- Appellate Mediation Task Force
- Appellate Process Task Force
- Bench-Bar Pro Bono Project Advisory Committee
- Executive Legislative Action Network (ELAN)
- Oversight Committee for the California Drug Court Project
- Community-Focused Court Planning Implementation Committee
- Task Force on Complex Civil Litigation
- Task Force on Jury Instructions
- Task Force on Jury System Improvements
- Task Force on Probate and Mental Health
- Task Force on the Quality of Justice (includes Subcommittee on Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Judicial System, Subcommittee on the Quality of Judicial Service)

The 27-member Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest and busiest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts serves as the staff agency to the council.